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Uneasy New Orleans braces for Hurricane Isaac



Workers stack sandbags on top of retaining wall baskets in preparation for Hurricane Isaac. (see story on pg 5)

Romney wraps up Republican presidential nomination

TAMPA (AFP) - Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney secured the Republican presidential nomination by delegate roll call yesterday at the party convention in Tampa.

In a state-by-state count of delegates that reflected the results of the Republican primary elections earlier in the year, Romney soared past the 1,144 threshold needed to formally earn the nomination.

Romney, a 65-year-old multi-millionaire businessman, will formally take up the nomination with a prime time acceptance speech on Thursday, the climax of three days of political theater at a packed-out convention center in Tampa, Florida.

Green Aruba III conference coming up



3.4.5
October

Smart & Sustainable

Alternative energy conference

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Finance, Communication, Utilities and Energy, Mike de Meza joined Frank Hoevertsz of the Utilities Committee at the Dr. Edward Cheung Innovation Center in announcing the third installment of the Green Aruba Energy Conference will take place Wednesday, Thursday and Fri, October 3, 4 and 5.

The theme for this year's conference is "Smart and Sustainable-Aruba Goes Green." Each year the conference has been tied to tangible efforts to make Aruba an oil independent nation; this year the event will include the official groundbreaking for the solar park project at the Reina Beatrix International Airport. The entire parking lot will be turned into a massive field of solar panels, with the construction also providing shade for the cars using the lot. This is expected to provide 10% of Aruba's energy needs through "clean," renewable energy.

Ivan Flanegin, a native Aruban and graduate of TU Delft in Holland who is heading the project for TNO was introduced. He affirmed he is very proud to be in charge of this first project in collaboration with TNO, an independent research organization dedicated to innovation with purpose. Last year's energy conference was marked by the opening of the Dr. Ed-

ward Cheung center and revolutionary establishment of a TNO branch in the Caribbean.

Director of TNO Caribbean, Jan Ebbing, will be one of the guest speakers at Green Aruba III. He will outline the public/private project about to break ground in Kibaima. It will be FCCA sponsored low-income housing, which will be totally self-sufficient in producing its own energy and taking advantage of all technologies for recycling energy and human waste. Both this and the airport solar park are the first such projects for the entire Caribbean.

Mr. Flanegin described these developments as the start of a "roadmap for a sustainable Aruba." This year's conference will be focused on the feasible projects and steps the government wishes to implement to attain



Ivan Flanegin

Aruba's oil independence, as well as measures already initiated. The conference also includes events to engage and stimulate the young minds attending the EPI Technical School, who the Prime Minister considers the future engineers of a sustainable Aruba.

Continued on page 2

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“Small Business Week 2012” scheduled for November



ORANJESTAD -- The government has recently announced that the “Small Business Week” for this year will take place in the month of November. The exact dates are not yet confirmed, but will be forthcoming very soon.

According to the Minister of Economic Affairs, last year’s event was very successful. A large number of people

participated in the weeklong program dedicated to everything having to do with business. People came looking for information in preparation for opening a business or simply wanted to be more informed.

This year again they will be offering the possibility to attend different workshops and other new features during the week.

Workshops on Marketing, Preparing a Business Plan, Taxation, Financing and Banking, etc. can be expected. Reportedly, this year’s event will surpass last year’s.

This year, the new IDEA will be part of the weeklong Small Business Week, giving information and guidance to future entrepreneurs. Last year, IDEA was only a proposition. Today IDEA has already helped a number of people on how to start a business; something, by the way, the Aruba Chamber of Commerce & Industry has been doing very successfully for more than 25 years!

According to the Minister, the primary objective of the Small Business Week is to help people get as much information as possible about starting a business and to ensure that those who are in business will be successful.

Drag racing innovator, Harold Martin, chose Aruba as vacation destination

Harold Martin has been a long-standing icon in the drag racing industry, his innovations with Electronic Fuel Injection securing his place in drag racing history and titling him the

“EFI Wizard.” As a Pro Mod driver, Martin met Team Aruba driver, Trevor Eman, when they raced together with the International Hot Rod Association. As he does with all

drivers and fans who will listen, Eman assured Martin that a trip to Aruba would not be a disappointment. Martin remembered these words and recently took a trip to the “friendly island” Eman calls home.

“Harold called last Friday,” tells Eman, “and told me he remembers when we met back in the IHRA days that we told him to get in touch with us on the island, if he were to take a trip here. Well, that was exactly what he did. He called to let us know he and his family were on Aruba. So, I took them out to tour the island a bit, and took them to see Aruba’s quarter-mile drag strip, Palo Marga, and we went out for a nice dinner.

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Green Aruba III conference coming up

Continued from page 1



Minister de Meza, PM Eman and Frank Hoevertsz

Guest speakers confirmed for the upcoming conference include Mrs. Kitty van der Heijden, Director DME, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands and Prof. Paul Komor from the University of Colorado, who shared the Noble Prize with former Vice President Al Gore for his work on climate change. He will speak on “Electricity Storage and Renewable Energy for Island Power.”

Dr. Wubbo Ockels, physicist and professor at TU Delft, former astronaut and Holland’s first man into space, will return to the conference to speak on “Happy Energy Aruba.” Professor Daniel Schrag of Harvard University is on the roster, along with Prof. Laurens Siebelles of TU Delft and Gijsbert van Doorn from EcoPower International.

The final day will be dedicated to speakers with practical information for the public and targeted to the consumer. Topics such as Green Design for Households, Green Energy for Households, Latest Developments and Solar Car Concept will be expounded upon by guest speakers. These include: Alex Michaelis of Michaelis Boyd Associates in the UK, Suzanne van Kooten, Director Energy Efficiency, TNO, and Leona Beeldstro from Global Energy Now!



The two previous energy conferences have each featured notable keynote speakers, such as former Vice President Al Gore and last year, HRH Prince of Orange Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands. This year’s keynote speaker has yet to be announced.

For more information on the Green Aruba III conference and to register, visit the official website: <http://www.greenaruba.org>.

by Rosalie Klein

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Congratulations to Crystal and Joey

This week, Crystal and Joey from Staten Island, New York came to celebrate their engagement and love. Fate brought these two together and love will keep them together.

Joey gave an extra gift to Crystal after accepting his ring and saying "yes". That was a week's vacation together

What a wonderful place to start their new journey together.

Photos by Diane Keijzer.



Drag racing innovator, Harold Martin . . .

Continued from page 2

"We spoke a lot about racing, of course, and we also spoke a lot about having lost Bert Jackson last year."

Jackson, a friend to both Martin and Eman, was tragically killed in an on track accident at the ADRL Dragstock event in September of 2011.

"It was great to spend that time with such a legend of the sport," continued Eman. "It was just as wonderful to be able to show off our beautiful island to a member of our racing community in the states."

Martin, although extremely well known by drag race fans in the states, was surprised when he was recognized in the lobby of his hotel in Aruba, where a local told him he looked very familiar and asked if he was the "EFI Wizard."



"My son and I very much enjoyed checking out the wonderful country of Aruba. The overall experiences were very enjoyable," told Martin.

Team Aruba is always happy to tell everyone they meet in the states, from fans to racers to sponsors, about the wonderful island they call home. If you take a trip to Aruba, be sure to look up the Eman family. They'll be glad you came.



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Group of loyal visitors honored at the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, as Distinguished visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 and 20 or more consecutive years. The honorees are Mr. James and Mrs. Linda Pietro and their son Mr. Christopher Pietro; they received the Distinguished Visitor certificate, and Mr. Richard and Mrs. Joanne Savitz received the Goodwill Ambassador certificate. All of them are staying at the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort. The certificates were presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Ms. Xiomara of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort.

Mr. Art and Mrs. Sandra Mac Donald honored at Costa Linda Beach Resort

Also recently, loyal visitors of Aruba were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees are Art and Sandra Mac Donald, resident of Province Ontario.

They are members of Costa Linda Beach Resort and have enjoying the Island every year.

Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority and Mrs. Gloria Janga Assistant Members Relation Manager handed the Mac Donalds their certificates during a small ceremony held at Costa Linda Beach Resort.



Buri is looking for friends and family members

We would like to introduce Buri to you, one of the donkeys that find a home at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. He owes his name to the fact that he was found in Sjabu-ruri. That in itself is quite a story. At first catching him was a breeze: together with someone from the fire brigade we lured him into a garden, but then the main artery in an old wound in his behind burst and it became a bloody situation. Once in the trailer the vet was called and he came in to stitch the wound and remove a rusty can from one of his hind legs. When Buri was healed he jumped the gate and disappeared in the cunucu. What we did not know at the time was that the vet had provided Buri with a chip. Years later a gorgeous, castrated white donkey was standing in front of our gate. Because we had no idea who it was, we looked for a chip. We could not find one, so we baptized him Mystery Man and chipped him. Two years later we discovered that Mystery Man already had a chip from the vet as well. And yes: Buri and Mystery Man proved to be one and the same. We had not recognized him as he had a reddish fur at the time; now he was very light in color.

This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale



of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream.

The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website www.arubandonkey.org or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it!

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Uneasy New Orleans braces for Hurricane Isaac

NEW ORLEANS (AFP) - Isaac grew yesterday into a hurricane as New Orleans girded for a "big hurt", seven years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the "Big Easy" and killed 1,800 people across the US Gulf Coast.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami warned that the storm's maximum winds had increased to 75 miles (120 kilometers) per hour, just above the threshold for an upgrade from tropical storm to a category one hurricane.

States of emergency were declared in Louisiana and Mississippi, allowing authorities to coordinate disaster relief and seek emergency federal funds.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu of New Orleans said the city could expect up to 16 inches (40 cm) of rain or more because of the slow-moving hurricane.

"We have dodged a bullet in the sense that this is not a category 3 storm," he said, "But a category one at this strength ... is plenty big enough to put a big hurt on you if you fall into complacency. Let's not do that."

US President Barack Obama yesterday urged people to take the threat seriously, warn-

ing of the possibility of major flooding and damage.

"I want to encourage all residents of the Gulf Coast to listen to your local officials and follow their directions, including if they tell you to evacuate," Obama said in a televised statement at the White House.

"Now is not the time to tempt fate. Now is not the time to dismiss official warnings. You need to take this seriously," Obama said.

Obama said he had managed a wide-ranging effort by federal and local governments to make preparations.

The US National Hurricane Center said in an earlier advisory that in some Gulf Coast areas -- such as the Mississippi-Alabama border east to Florida -- a hurricane warning has been replaced with a tropical storm warning.

But a full-blown hurricane warning remained in effect for metropolitan New Orleans, a city known as the Big Easy for its jazz and easy-going lifestyle.

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal said 28 school districts had closed and the number was expected to rise.

He said the state govern-



A Gulfport resident takes advantage of waves from Hurricane Isaac to skimboard at the beach in Gulfport, Mississippi.

ment had already contacted Washington about getting reimbursed for hurricane-preparation spending -- an allusion to agonizing delays in getting federal help after Katrina blasted the city.

Most residents had already boarded up their windows and stocked up on essentials as they prepared to either evacuate or hunker down.

But weak though Isaac was forecast to be, the timing of the storm -- set to arrive on the seventh anniversary of Katrina -- had many here on edge.

Katrina left behind a devastating sprawl of destruction

and death when it hit New Orleans on August 29, 2005, and a bungled response by the Bush administration was a black mark on his second term in office.

Thousands of people were left stranded on the roofs of their houses for days after Katrina's powerful storm surge smashed levees long-warned to be inadequate, flooding 80 percent of the low-lying city.

Those who managed to make it to dry land faced deadly violence and looting as the city descended into chaos and officials failed to even provide water and food -- let

alone security and medical aid -- in the sweltering heat.

Officials insisted that the billions of dollars spent to reinforce the city's storm levees and pumps will protect the Big Easy from inundation, and Isaac is nowhere near Katrina's strength.

US President Barack Obama yesterday declared a state of emergency in a second state, Mississippi, to cope with the expected impact of Hurricane Isaac.

The move followed a similar declaration for Louisiana issued yesterday and came as parts of Mississippi and neighboring states were placed under hurricane and tropical storm warnings.

Declaring a state of emergency allows a president to authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other government departments to coordinate disaster relief efforts.

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission sent extra staff to two nuclear power plants in Louisiana. They are about 20 and 25 miles from New Orleans and Baton Rouge, respectively.

Governor Jindal urged people to prepare for the worst.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Colombia makes arrests in assassination attempt

BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombian police have arrested seven people for the attempted assassination of a former interior minister, President Juan Manuel Santos said yesterday.

Suspected rebels detonated a bomb attached to former interior minister Fernando Londono's armored vehicle May 15 as he was being driven through Bogota. Londono survived the attack but his driver and bodyguard were killed.

On his Twitter account, Santos congratulated the police on the arrests and described those detained as "common criminals."

The arrests come as Santos is engaged in exploratory talks to open peace negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the country's oldest and largest leftist guerrilla group.

The attorney general's office said in June that FARC rebels carried out the attack on Londono, who served as interior minister under former president Alvaro Uribe, a hard-liner who opposed negotiations with the rebels.

RCN radio station said those arrested included a young man who placed the bomb on Londono's vehicle.

Hunt for more suspects in Vatican leaks scandal

VATICAN (AFP) - The hunt for the whistleblowers behind the Vatican's embarrassing leaks scandal is far from over according to Italian newspaper reports, which claim up to 20 suspects may still be on the loose. The pope's butler will stand trial for smuggling secret papers out of the Holy See in October. But the Vatican's admission that there may be further arrests has sparked wild media speculation over who else may be involved.

While the Corriere della Sera newspaper believes there are three or four people who helped Paolo Gabriele get his hands on the documents, Il Messaggero daily says the real mole is a layman whose name begins with the letter "S". And Italy's news agency ANSA cites reliable Vatican sources to say there are around 20 people involved in the scandal -- a charge the Holy See has rebuffed.

Female bomber kills seven as Putin urges calm

MOSCOW (AFP) - A female suicide bomber posing as a Muslim pilgrim killed a leading Islamic scholar and at least five others yesterday in Russia's restive Muslim region of Dagestan.

The attack was reported

just as President Vladimir Putin began delivering a keynote address devoted to an assassination attempt last month against another top moderate cleric in a different republic that killed his former deputy.

Chavez eyes political fallout from deadly refinery fire

PUNTO FIJO (AFP) - Venezuela declared an end to its deadliest refinery disaster yesterday, three days after an explosion and fire killed more than 40 people and unleashed an outpouring of criticism of President Hugo Chavez.

Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said firefighters had finally put out the fire at the Amuay oil refinery, the country's largest, which spread to three storage tanks before being brought under control yesterday.

"With the expertise, skill and knowledge of our boys, we can finally tell the world that this is absolutely controlled. It was contained and now the fire has been extinguished," Ramirez told reporters at the refinery complex.

Earlier, sources at state-run Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) had said the fire was put out in the last storage tank early yesterday, only to have it flare up again in the morning as remnants of fuel inside burned off.

Ramirez, who is also president of PDVSA, said the site was in a "cooling" phase.

The blaze has been a major political embarrassment for Chavez, an anti-American firebrand who is in the midst of a campaign for re-election Octo-

ber 7 while recovering from a serious bout with cancer.

Angrily brushing aside accusations of declining maintenance and safety at the plant, Chavez ordered an investigation into the cause of the massive explosion that ripped through the refinery early Saturday.

Falcon Governor Stella Lugo said 48 people were killed in the conflagration, but Venezuelan attorney general Luis Ortega put the toll at 41 dead.

At least 20 members of a national guard unit assigned to protect the facility were killed, along with some members of their families.

The refinery is located in a residential and commercial complex where workers live with their relatives and poor families who settled in surrounding neighborhoods.

Lugo said said 520 houses near the refinery had been affected by the disaster, and residents could be seen yesterday removing belongings with the held of national guard troops.

Chavez, 58, toured the scene dressed in mourner's black and hugged weeping family members.

In power since 1999, Chavez dismissed charges of neglect at the country's premier refinery and urged Venezuelans to "move on" after the

tragedy.

Henrique Capriles, his presidential race rival, insisted the government needed to take responsibility.

"It seems irresponsible and insensitive to me, cold and bold, to say things must move forward. Well the country will move on, but there were people who lost their lives here," said Capriles.

"This is not a show or some soap opera. This is a serious situation that has stunned the nation."

"Accidents happen for a reason, and Venezuelans are awaiting a clear response and serious investigation ... to see what happened," said Capriles.

Ramirez said Monday that the fire would not affect oil derivative exports or domestic supplies in Venezuela, an OPEC member and Latin America's biggest petroleum producer.

He said the country's other five domestic refineries could produce 735,000 barrels of fuel per day to take up some of the slack, while insisting that "all our export capabilities are intact."

Ramirez has also said the Paraguana facility -- which includes the Amuay and Cardon refineries -- will be able to operate at full capacity within two days after the fire is extinguished.



A sign stands outside a Catholic church ahead of the arrival of Hurricane Isaac to the Gulf Coast on August 28, 2012 in Waveland, Mississippi. Many residents of the area decided to stay in their homes instead of evacuate for the Level 1 hurricane. The area was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

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Belgium frees Dutroux accomplice on parole in convent

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The notorious accomplice and ex-wife of paedophile serial killer Marc Dutroux won parole yesterday midway through her 30-year jail sentence -- on condition she moves into a convent.

Under orders to steer clear of the outside world, Michelle Martin was freed from a Brussels jail by a five-man panel of judges who spent about an hour hearing submissions from plaintiffs and her lawyer before throwing out the grounds of two appeals against a July 31 regional court decision.

The 52-year-old, jailed for a second time in 2004 for helping Dutroux hold a string of young victims prisoner and for complicity in the deaths of two girls found starved to death in a locked cellar, left her jail in southern Brussels yesterday evening. She went to the convent about an hour's drive away in Malonne, southern Belgium.

Martin is still considered Belgium's "most-hated woman," but "she wants to succeed in her resettlement... and wishes to repay her debt to society," said her lawyer, Thierry Moreau.

Authorities have stepped up security around the convent, home to about a dozen elderly nuns.

The initial decision by a regional court to free her after 16 years behind bars had provoked anger among victims' families, prompted demonstrations around the convent and triggered a debate in Belgium about imposing full-term jail sentencing for crimes judged the most serious.

A previous attempt to place Martin in a French convent also fell foul of French authorities' fears over public order.

France opens enquiry into claims of Arafat poisoning

PARIS (AFP) - French prosecutors have opened a murder enquiry into Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's 2004 death near Paris following claims he may have died of polonium poisoning, sources close to the matter told AFP yesterday.

The probe comes after Arafat's family launched legal action in France last

month following reports the veteran Palestinian leader may have died from radioactive polonium.

Arafat's widow Suha and his daughter Zawra lodged a murder complaint on July 31 in the Paris suburb of Nanterre. Arafat died at age 75 at a military hospital near Paris in 2004. The Palestinian Authority hailed the move.

Allegations that the Nobel Peace laureate was poisoned were resurrected last month after Al-Jazeera news channel broadcast an investigation in which experts said they found high levels of polonium on his personal effects.

Polonium is a highly toxic substance which is rarely found outside military and scientific circles, and was

used to kill former Russian spy turned Kremlin critic Alexander Litvinenko, who died in 2006 shortly after drinking tea laced with the poison.

Suha Arafat has said she backs exhuming her late husband's remains from his mausoleum in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

A Swiss radiology lab at

the Lausanne University Hospital Centre said on Friday it has received Suha Arafat's go-ahead to test his remains for poisoning by polonium.

French news website Slate.fr yesterday published a copy of the medical report into Arafat's death and said his symptoms were not consistent with polonium poisoning.

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Health & Living

US approves new once-a-day pill to treat HIV

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A new pill to treat HIV infection -- combining two previously approved drugs plus two new ones -- has been approved for adults living with the virus that causes AIDS, US regulators said Monday.

The single daily dose of Stribild provides a complete treatment regimen for HIV infection, the US Food and Drug Administration said in a statement, and is meant for people who have not already received treatment with other HIV drugs.

"Through continued research and drug development, treatment for those infected with HIV has evolved from multi-pill regimens to single-pill regimens," said Edward Cox, director of the Office of Antimicrobial Products in the

FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

"New combination HIV drugs like Stribild help simplify treatment regimens."

The new pill, previously called Quad, is made by Gilead Sciences in California and "should be available to patients by the end of the week," company spokeswoman Erin Rau told AFP.

The company said it tested the pill in two double-blind clinical trials of more than 1,400 patients.

Results showed that Stribild performed as well or better than two other treatment combinations, and brought virus readings down to undetectable levels in around nine of 10 patients after 48 weeks.

"Therapies that address the individual needs of patients

are critical to enhancing adherence and increasing the potential for treatment success," Gilead chief John Martin said in a company statement.

But some advocates say the new pill is priced far too high.

The new drug "is not a significant improvement over existing therapies," Weinstein told AFP, adding the cost will "severely limit access" to the new medication.

Gilead is charging wholesalers \$28,500 a year for the drug, but said it will provide discounts to state assistance programs and has created a patient financial-assistance program, Rau said.

This is Gilead's third single-tablet anti-HIV combination therapy, the company noted, adding it is still seeking approval for the newest offering in Australia, Canada and the European Union.

To get the drug to HIV patients in the developing world, where millions lack access to effective treatment options, generic versions are being developed -- with permission and help from Gilead -- by a number of Indian manufacturers and the Medicines Patent Pool, a non-profit that helps facilitate generic drug-making.

The drug combines Truvada -- another Gilead offering approved in 2004, that combines emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate to fight an enzyme that HIV needs to replicate -- with elvitegravir, another enzyme-fighting drug, and cobicistat, which enhances the effects of elvitegravir.

The FDA said further study is required to determine the quad-drug's safety for women and children, how resistance may develop, and whether the drug interacts with other drugs.

Cuba declares cholera outbreak over



HAVANA (AFP) - Cuba's health ministry said Tuesday the country's first cholera outbreak in 130 years is over after three deaths and more than 400 confirmed cases.

"More than 10 days have gone by since the last confirmed case, so the Health Ministry is declaring this (cholera) outbreak over," a ministry statement said.

All told there were 417 confirmed cases in two months since the outbreak was announced July 3, according to the the ministry, which said the cases were linked to contaminated wells in Manzanillo.

Some dissidents in the Americas' only communist-run country have criticized the government for withholding

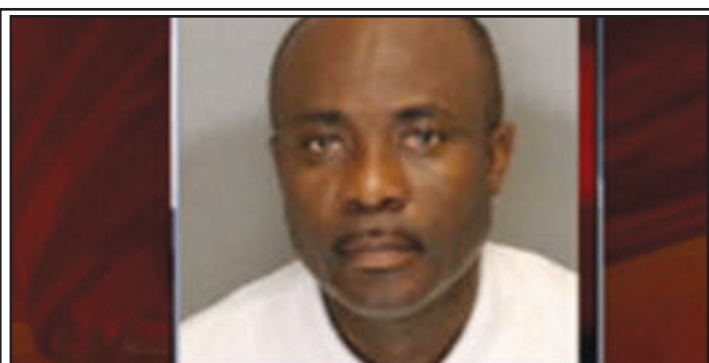
information about the outbreak.

Health officials have said they believe heavy rains and hot temperatures contributed to the outbreak.

Cholera is an intestinal ailment spread through contaminated food and water.

It causes serious diarrhea and vomiting, leading to dehydration. It is easily treatable by rehydration and antibiotics, but the ailment can be fatal if not addressed quickly enough.

The outbreak is a matter of particular concern in Cuba, which prides itself on having one of the region's most admired public health systems, seen as a laudable success for the half-century old regime.



Ernest Osei Addo, 48, was arrested last week at his Georgia home for allegedly providing medical services to as many as 500 patients at five Agape-owned senior centers in the South Carolina area from February 15 through August 22. The Georgia man was arrested last week for unlawfully practicing medicine in South Carolina, law enforcement officials said. Addo used documents from a friend who is a doctor in Orangeburg to convince Agape Senior Primary Care he was a physician. He is currently charged with unlawfully practicing medicine and obtaining goods under false pretences in the amount of more than \$10,000. Metts says that could only be the tip of the iceberg. The day he quit was the same day his friend realized Addo had opened credit cards in his name and called police. The sheriff said deputies are also investigating whether Addo should be charged with unlawfully prescribing medicine or with illegally getting wages from Agape.



Two deaths have now been linked to an outbreak of Legionnaire's disease among people who visited the JW Marriott Hotel on West Adams between July 16 and August 15. The Chicago Department of Public Health now reports it has received eight confirmed cases of Legionnaires including the two deaths. Of the eight, one is from Illinois. The rest are from out of state. They have not been identified. Because Legionnaire's disease, which is a severe form on pneumonia, is contracted by breathing in infected water, the JW Marriot has drained its pool, whirlpool, lobby fountain and indefinitely closed parts of its spa. The health department says it does not believe there is an ongoing health threat. Marriott says they have been cooperating with health officials and the hotel remains open.

Sci-Tech

Shaking 'swarm' fuels California's quake jitters

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A "quake swarm" that has shaken southern California with hundreds of moderate temblors in quick succession is fueling jitters in the Golden State, long braced for the Big One.

The quakes, which began Sunday and could last for a few days according to experts, were mostly moderate but included several over 5.0 in magnitude, causing minor damage in the town of Brawley, near the Mexican border.

While nobody was injured -- and as seismologists stress it does not increase the risk of a massive earthquake the region has long feared -- it has inevitably fueled anxiety.

"California gonna have a big earth quake, watch. Real big," commented @RalphyG on Twitter, while @An0nKn0wledge added: "The BIG QUAKE, its gonna happen soon be prepared not scared!"

On Sunday, quakes could be felt as far away as San Diego on the West Coast and inland east into Arizona, as well as Orange County further north towards Los Angeles.

In Brawley itself there was minor damage to town center buildings, while products were knocked from shelves in some stores and amateur video showed the alarming jolt of the biggest shakes.

The town at the epicenter of the shaking has a quake phenomenon named after it: the Brawley Seismic Zone. It sits between the San Andreas and Imperial faults.



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Brazil Supreme Court approves work on Amazon dam



SAO PAULO (AFP) - Brazil's Supreme Court has approved the resumption of work on the huge Belo Monte dam in the Amazon, which was halted

earlier this month after protests from indigenous groups.

The preliminary ruling on Monday overturns an earlier ruling that ordered construc-

tion of the dam across the Xingu River, a tributary of the Amazon, to be stopped until indigenous peoples can testify before Congress.

However, the decision by Supreme Court President Carlos Ayres Britto could be revised when the court examines the case further, its website said.

The dam, expected to produce 11,000 megawatts of electricity, would be the third-biggest in the world, after China's Three Gorges facility and Brazil's Itaipu dam in the south.

A regional federal court, in

the earlier ruling, had noted that when Congress approved the project in 2005, it called for an environmental impact study after the start of the work.

By law, the native communities had the right to air their views in Congress on the basis of the study, but this was not done, the court said.

Work on the dam began a year ago, despite fierce opposition from local residents and green activists.

Indigenous groups fear the dam will harm their way of life while environmentalists have warned of deforestation,

greenhouse gas emissions and irreparable damage to the ecosystem.

"Avatar" director James Cameron and actress Sigourney Weaver have given their backing to dam opponents, drawing parallels with the natives-versus-exploiters storyline of their blockbuster Hollywood movie.

Belo Monte is expected to flood an area of 500 square kilometers (200 square miles) along the Xingu, and displace 16,000 people, according to the government. Some NGOs estimate that 40,000 people would be displaced.

COMICS

PICKLES



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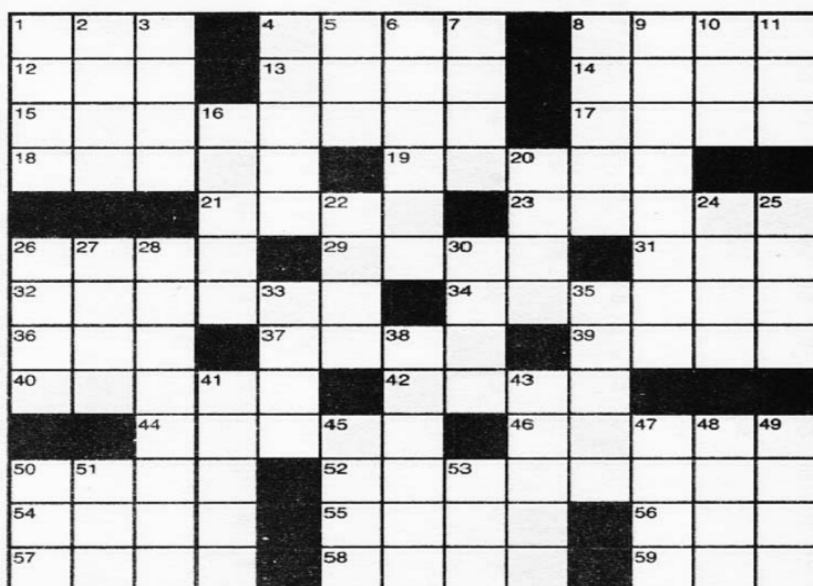
1. After uno
4. "Welcome" sites
8. A Rugrat twin
12. Literary form
13. "___ of Livin' to Do"
14. Road
15. Idle period
17. "Diana" singer
18. "To be" follower
19. In the middle of
21. Vegetarian no-no
23. Loft
26. First name in spydom
29. Castle ditch
31. Lyrical Gershwin brother
32. Prove
34. Tribal healer
36. Author Clancy
37. One against
39. Shalit or Siskel
40. Vow
42. Barbara of "Perry Mason"
44. More aged
46. Below
50. Aretha's category
52. "___, no see!"
54. Golden Rule word
55. Patella site

DOWN

56. Flightless bird
57. Inquisitive
58. Groups
59. Spigot
1. Extinct bird
2. Olfactory stimulus
3. Stitched
4. Not glossy, as a finish
5. ___ Pasha
6. Beefsteak, for one
7. Curtail
8. Production facility
9. Punter's stat
10. Fountain pen need
11. Grazing ground
16. "___ is an island" (Donne)
20. It's taken during an inauguration
22. Hymn's end
24. Neighbor of Afghanistan
25. ___ sugar
26. New York nine
27. State positively
28. Game interruptions
30. Bhutan's continent
33. Comb wool

35. FBI employee

38. Seat for Elizabeth II
41. Pewter, for one
43. Certain sleds
45. Flag Day initiators
47. Japanese legislature
48. Woodhouse or Bovary
49. Enlist again
50. Energy source
51. Performer Yoko
53. Monarch capturer



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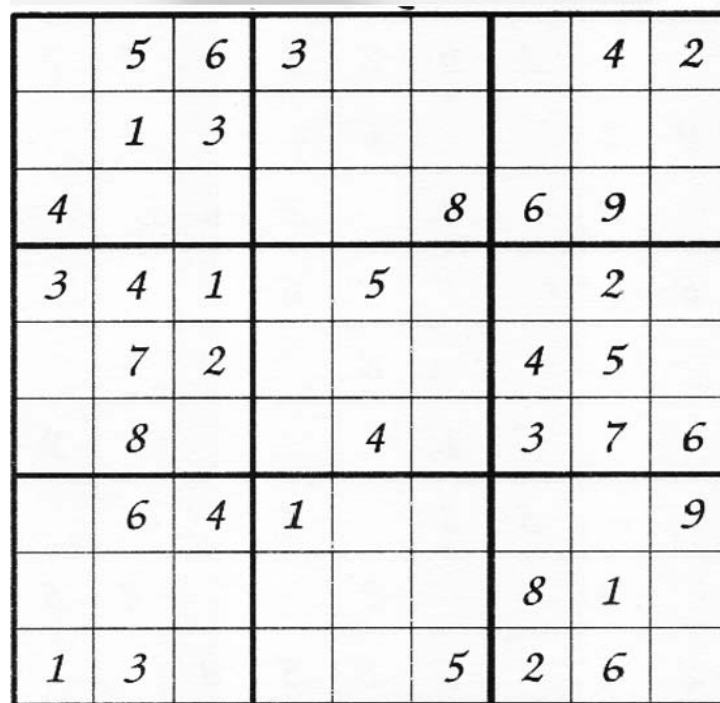
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

4	9	2	5	7	6	8	3	1
7	1	8	3	9	4	5	6	2
6	5	3	2	8	1	7	9	4
9	7	1	6	5	2	3	8	4
1	5	7	6	3	8	2	4	9
8	2	6	9	5	7	1	4	3
5	6	9	8	1	5	7	2	4
5	8	7	4	2	9	3	1	6
2	4	1	7	6	3	9	5	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Catalonia seeks rescue as Spain recession deepens

MADRID (AFP) - Spain's debt-struck Catalonia region reached out yesterday for a 5.0-billion-euro (\$6.3-billion) central government rescue as the entire nation lurched closer to a sovereign bailout.

The northeastern region's government, facing huge repayments on its 40-billion-euro debt, said it would tap an 18-billion-euro liquidity fund set up by Madrid to finance troubled regions.

"The government has decided to request participation in the liquidity fund," Catalan government spokesman Francesc Homs told a news conference.

But the region, responsible for one-fifth of Spanish economic output and in open conflict with Madrid over its deficit-cutting demands, would do so "without accepting political conditions," he said.

Catalonia's announcement highlighted Spain's tremendous financial squeeze, feeding expectations that the eurozone's fourth largest economy will be forced to seek a broad bailout -- and soon.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said the central government would help Catalonia, "as we help the rest of the regions. The regions are also Spain so the Spanish government will not wash its hands of the regions."

Rajoy's conservative government snatched a 100-billion-euro eurozone rescue loan in June to salvage the balance sheets of its banks.

But analysts believe Spain's high borrowing costs will still force it to seek a sovereign bailout before a repayment crunch in October when more than 30 billion euros in debt payments are due.

The Spanish government has called on the ECB to come to its aid by resuming its program of purchasing government bonds.

But the ECB is expected to act only if Madrid accepts new conditions by formally applying to the eurozone bailout funds, the European Financial Stability Facility and its successor the European Stability Mechanism.

Brazil bids to become world's third IT market by 2022

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Brazil hopes to capitalize on the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics to advance its goal of becoming the world's third largest information technology and communications (ITC) market, a top industry official says.

"We are today the fifth largest ITC market in the world, (worth) \$210 billion dollars," Antonio Gil, president of the Brazilian Association of Information Technology and Communication Companies (Brasscom), told AFP.

Brasscom, which groups top domestic and foreign ITC companies operating in Brazil such as IBM, Microsoft, Intel, Ericsson and Lenovo, is drawing up a study with global consulting firm McKinsey on how to help Brazil vault into third place behind China and the United States by 2022.

2022 will mark the bicentennial of Brazil's independence from Portugal and the joint study aims to develop a strategic plan to make ITC "the engine of Brazil's development" and identify what needs to be done to turn the world's sixth largest economy into "one of the top three ITC" markets, Gil said.

Results of the study, titled Brazil 2022, are expected to be released at a Brasscom Global IT forum here in October.

Gil, a former IBM senior executive, said Brazil's ITC strengths included sophisticated financial services, electronic voting and tax declaration systems as well as widespread use of ITC by the energy, agriculture and manufacturing centers.

"We are now focusing on innovation and new investment in small and medium sized companies as well as on using IT in sectors like health, education and transparency in government," he added.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	D	S	A	R	I	D	F	L	A	T
L	I	E	R	E	T	E	L	O	B	E
A	S	P	T	E	E	M	A	S	E	A
I	H	A	V	E	D	R	E	A	M	E
R	E	L	E	R	E	R	E			
A	M	A	N	S	I	T	I	C	E	
G	E	T	T	I	N	G	T	O	K	N
O	W	E	D	O	T		O	T	O	E
			C	O	B		R	I	L	E
S	H	A	L	L	W	E	D	A	N	C
O	N	E	R	E	A	S	E	D	A	D
N	O	R	A	S	R	T	A	E	V	E
A	B	E	T	T	E	S	S	D	E	N



VIETNAM, Hanoi : AFP photo shows motorcyclists rushing to a filling station just one hour before petrol prices rose up for third time this month in downtown Hanoi on August 28, 2012. Petrol prices have been raised three times just in August with retail price for regular RON 92 increased from 21,000 dong (\$1.08) to 23,650 dong (\$1.13) per liter or 12.7 percent up.



Current as of: 08/28/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.78	1.80	1.82
Britain	GBP	2.75	2.80	2.86
Switzerland	CHF	185.90	186.62	187.42
Netherlands	EUR	221.46	223.49	225.73
Sweden	SEK	26.14	26.86	27.66
Denmark	DKK	29.03	29.75	30.55
Norway	NOK	29.69	30.41	31.21
Japan (per 100)	JPY	224.63	226.68	228.96

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Statoil steps up Arctic energy exploration

OSLO (AFP) - Norway's Statoil said yesterday it would vastly expand its prospecting efforts in the Arctic, thought to hold one of the world's largest untouched deposits of oil and natural gas.

Statoil will drill nine wells in the Norwegian Barents Sea between December and the summer of 2013, the company said in a statement.

"This is a less challenging area, as the Norwegian Barents is one of the only Arctic areas with a year-round ice-free zone," said Statoil Exploration executive vice president Tim Dodson.

The campaign in the summer of 2013 will include the drilling of two or three wells in the Hoop frontier exploration area far north in the Barents sea.

"These will be the northernmost wells ever drilled in Norway," the company said.

Major energy companies

have increased their efforts to explore the frigid Arctic waters after between 400 and 600 million barrels equivalent were discovered by Statoil in the Skrugard and Havis wells.

"After our Skrugard and Havis discoveries we still see attractive opportunities here," Dodson said.

But the new energy frontier has raised stiff resistance from environmentalists.

In recent days, Greenpeace activists have carried out brazen actions against the Arctic operations of Russian energy giant Gazprom.

Six Greenpeace International activists occupied Gazprom's rig in the southeastern section of the Barents Sea on Friday for 15 hours before being chased out, pelted by workers with chunks of metal and hosed with ice water.



KABUL : Photo shows a girl standing at a dumping site in Kabul. The war-torn country, beset by a decade-long Taliban insurgency and rampant corruption, is one of the world's poorest, with more than a third of the population living below the poverty line in 2008. Grinding poverty is Afghanistan's biggest enemy. After seven years of US occupation, the country is close to being a failed state as Somalia is now. Nearly 18 million Afghans live on less than \$2 a day.

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Orthodox activists interrupt Pussy Riot play in Russia

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian Orthodox Church activists burst into a theatrical show about the Pussy Riot feminist punk band late Monday, shouting "Repent!" and "Why do you hate Russians," filmed by a national channel.

The dramatic twist came as a cutting-edge theatre put on a documentary show about the three jailed singers' stunt performance against President Vladimir Putin in a cathedral, with the women's lawyers and supporters on stage.

"We want to know why you are supporting this protest. Why are you so negative to the Orthodox faith?" one heckler, who gave his name as Andrei Kaplin, demanded to boos and shouts from the audience.

The show was the latest from a Moscow theatre praised for its fearless criticism of the authorities, with previous shows mocking Putin and detailing the death in jail of the whistleblowing lawyer Sergei Magnitsky.

The three women, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, Yekaterina Samutsevich and Maria Alyokhina, have been sentenced to two years in prison for performing a "punk prayer" in Moscow's main cathedral, in a trial called a farce by lawyers.

Audience members packed the black-painted Teatr.doc cellar theatre for the free show named after the trial venue, "Khamovnichesky Court. The Sequel."

Director Varvara Faer and playwright Mikhail Ugarov prompted the husband of Tolokonnikova, activist Pyotr Verzilov, their three lawyers and journalists to share their personal feelings on the trial, adding video footage.

"For us it was simply important to make people change their stance, to make them feel compassion most of all," Faer told AFP. "The important thing is that (the women) should be freed. That's more important than the show."

There were laughs, shouts of indignation and applause as those on stage gave views on everything from the women's love of poetry and philosophy to the state-appointed judge's jaunty polka-dot dress.

The show carried on despite the disruption.

Facebook users salute nude Prince Harry

LONDON (AFP) - Whatever the royal family may think of his exploits in Las Vegas, many Britons can barely hide their support for Prince Harry, posting naked pictures of themselves online in tribute.

A Facebook group entitled "Support Prince Harry with a naked salute!" -- featuring people posing in various states of undress saluting the third-in-line to the throne -- has won 13,000 members and is still growing.

The group sprang up after Harry, 27, was photographed naked with a mystery woman during a game of "strip billiards" in a Las Vegas hotel suite.

The images, first published on a US website last Wednesday, rapidly went viral and caused a furore in Britain.

But supporters have posted a flood of images of themselves saluting while in various states of undress -- often with strategically placed props including Union Jack flags, backpacks and teddy bears.

The Sun newspaper published photographs on Tuesday of what it said were British soldiers serving in Afghanistan, posing naked and saluting Prince Harry.

Harry, an army officer and a trained Apache helicopter pilot, served in Afghanistan for ten weeks himself but was pulled out in February 2008 after a media blackout broke down.

The Sun is the only British newspaper to have published the nude snaps of Harry, in defiance of orders from the royal family to respect the prince's privacy and restrain from printing them.

The online show of support for Harry came as it was an-

nounced that he will be the patron of a charity race to the South Pole between three teams of wounded servicemen from around the world.

Harry, who last year joined a group of injured soldiers as they trekked to the North Pole, is supporting the Walking With The Wounded South Pole Allied Challenge 2013.

Troops from Britain, the US and the Commonwealth who suffered physical or cognitive injuries while serving will take part in the four-week expedition next year.

Royal officials said it was "far too early" to tell whether Harry would join the group for the gruelling trek.

Ewan McGregor to be honoured at Spanish film festival



MADRID (AFP) - Scottish actor Ewan McGregor will be honoured with an award in tribute to his career at the San Sebastian film festival in Spain next month, festival organisers said Tuesday. The 41-year-old "Star Wars" star will receive the festival's Donostia Award, "awarded to a great film personality in recognition for their work and career", at a ceremony on September 27, they said in a statement. "Often hailed as one of the finest actors of his generation, Ewan McGregor consistently captivates audiences with a diverse line-up of roles across a multitude of genres, styles and scope," it said. The actor's latest film "The Impossible", a drama based on a true story of a family's fight to survive during the 2004 tsunami, will have its European premiere at the festival after the ceremony to award McGregor the prize. US actress Glenn Close won the Donostia Award last year. Previous recipients of the prize include Julia Roberts, Ian McKellen, Richard Gere and Woody Allen. The 60th edition of the San Sebastian film festival, the oldest and most prestigious event of its kind in the Spanish speaking world, will take place between September 21 and 29.




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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service,

babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities



Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-

and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Excellent dining, charming ambiance and a breathtaking view found only at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco



Stunning sunset



Risotto Frutti de Mare

Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable. La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail ta-

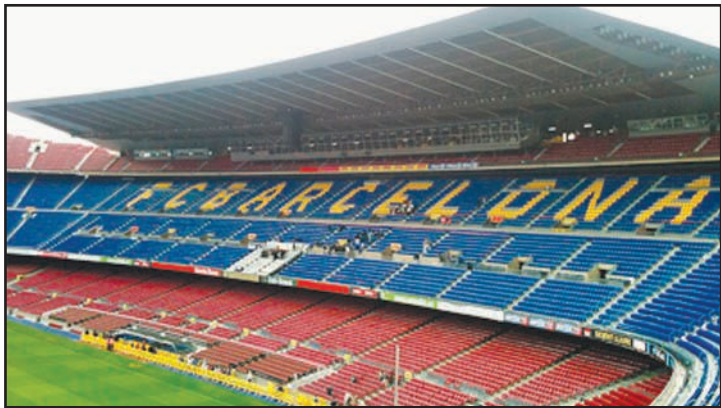
bles that offer the best unobstructed view, recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. Reservations can be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-latratortoria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.

SPORTS

Football: Barca say Real Madrid will be dangerous in 'clasico'



MADRID (AFP) - Barca coach Tito Vilanova warned that archrivals Real Madrid will be dangerous in today's Spanish Super Cup final clash after a three-game famine with no wins.

Barcelona won 3-2 in the first leg at the Camp Nou, despite a blunder by goalkeeper Victor Valdes, who tried to dribble the ball out of his own penalty area and let Angel di Maria score into an empty net.

But Real Madrid go into the return leg hungry after a terrible start to the season, with one draw and two losses including a shock 2-1 defeat at derby rivals Getafe on Sunday that left coach Jose Mourinho fuming at his own team.

Asked if that would make Real Madrid more vulnerable or more dangerous as opponents at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, Vilanova had no doubts.

"More dangerous, yes, yes. That's normal, the same would happen with us. If we had not won in two or three games and we were playing at home, we would try to change the dynamic as quickly as possible," Vilanova said.

"But in themselves Madrid are already dangerous with the number of players they have,

and in the Bernabeu. It is impossible to think about going to Madrid and having an easy game. They are very good. You just have to look at what they did last year."

Vilanova said he expected Madrid to apply the pressure from the starting whistle.

The coach did not give away his line-up but said latest recruit from Arsenal, Cameroonian Alex Song, could make an appearance.

"He has only had a week. He has a few mechanisms to learn obviously. We will see if he gets a few minutes," Vilanova said, adding that the 24-year-old midfielder was adapting quickly.

Vilanova denied a win on today would stamp Barca's authority on the season versus Real Madrid.

"Better to win it than not win it, but I don't think it marks the season. We have had three games and thinking that the winner of the Super Cup is going to win all the titles to come... I don't think so. There is so much ahead," he said.

"We all know Madrid will win many games and points. It is too much to analyze with only two match days (in the Liga)."

Football: Mourinho says Barca clash a psych test for Real



MADRID, (AFP) - Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho says his team's Spanish Super Cup clash with Barcelona today will be a psychological litmus test after their shock defeat to Getafe.

The Portuguese self-anointed "Special One" wants to know if Real's "unacceptable" attitude in their 2-1 defeat at derby rivals Getafe on Sunday was just a one-off, or a bigger problem.

Real Madrid fell to a 3-2 first leg defeat at their Catalan rivals' Camp Nou home on August 24, but Mourinho said he would be happy if his squad put in a similar show in the return leg at the Bernabeu.

What he doesn't want is a repeat of the Getafe performance.

"Winning the Super Cup or not winning the Super Cup, beating Barca or not beating Barca, none of that is important to me at the moment," Mourinho told a news conference.

"To me the fundamental thing today is to know what players I have, what individual and collective psychological profile I have, and whether the situation against Getafe was a chance situation or whether tomorrow we are going to repeat exactly the same type of team psychological profile," the coach said.

But the Getafe match was "unacceptable in every aspect, motivation aspect, the concentration aspect, the ambition aspect, the tactical aspect if you like, the practical aspect."

The Real coach said previous clashes with Barcelona showed that the first leg can be overturned.

"Between two big clubs, lots of good players, I would say the best players together, anything can happen, so everything is open," Mourinho said.



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Tennis: Djokovic favourite, not me, says Federer



NEW YORK (AFP) - Roger Federer began his campaign for a record sixth US Open with an easy 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 win over America's Donald Young, but insisted Novak Djokovic remains hot favourite to deny him an 18th major.

Top seed Federer, playing in his 52nd consecutive Grand Slam tournament, brushed aside 81st-ranked Young, who only last week stopped a run of 17 defeats in a row but who now stands at three wins and 22 losses in 2012.

Federer, who won his 17th Grand Slam trophy courtesy of his seventh Wimbledon title in July, goes on to face German veteran Bjorn Phau for a place in the last 32.

The Swiss star's win was also the first step on his way to erasing the disappointment of 2011, when he squandered a two-sets-to-love lead and match points to lose to eventual champion Djokovic in the semi-finals.

And he remains wary of the

danger posed by his great Serb rival.

"For me, Novak goes in as the favourite because he's the defending champion. He's probably won most titles on hard courts in the last couple of years. It's where he feels most comfortable," said the world number one.

"He's beaten me the last couple of years here as well. It's strange for me to be the favourite just after beating him a couple of times."

Djokovic stands to win the biggest pay day in the history of tennis of \$2.9 million if he wins the New York title, his prize money bolstered by a \$1 million bonus for his overall success in the US Open build-up events.

Although he trails Federer 16-12 in their head-to-head meetings, and lost at Wimbledon as well as the final in Cincinnati last week, Djokovic beat Federer in the semi-finals of the US Open in 2010 and 2011.



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Tennis: Roddick, Venus lead US golden oldies into 2nd round

(AFP) - Former winners Andy Roddick and Venus Williams moved into the US Open second round on Tuesday as defending champion Novak Djokovic and women's favorite Serena Williams prepared to make their bow.

Roddick, America's last men's major champion when he captured the 2003 US Open title, eased past compatriot and qualifier Rhyne Williams, the world 289.

His comfortable 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win was a gentle way to start his 13th successive US Open appearance, which also comes just two days before his 30th birthday.

"I think the game has become a lot more physical. I think you have to be a fully grown human to deal with kind of the ins and outs of the physical grind," said Roddick, the 20th seed.

Roddick will face either Australia's Bernard Tomic or Carlos Berlocq for a place in the last 32.

Fellow US veteran Williams, the 2000 and 2001 winner, also won an all-American match-up, beating wildcard Bethanie Mattek-Sands 6-3, 6-1.

Williams, playing her 14th consecutive US Open, missed nine months of action with the fatigue-causing Sjogren's Syndrome and came into the tour-

nament ranked at 46.

Victory was a welcome relief after slumping to a first-round loss at Wimbledon this year.

The 32-year-old next faces German sixth seed Angelique Kerber, who knocked her out of the Olympics.

Three-time women's champion and Olympic Games gold medalist Serena Williams, last year's runner-up, faces American compatriot Coco Vandeweghe.

Wimbledon runner-up Agnieszka Radwanska and former world number one Ana Ivanovic also breezed into the second round as both women look to bury their woeful Flushing Meadows records.

Polish second seed Radwanska and Ivanovic, the 12th-seeded Serb who was French Open champion in 2008, have never got beyond the fourth round in New York but have been quarter-finalists at the other three majors.

Ivanovic -- whose fourth-round appearances came in 2007, 2010 and 2011 -- defeated 17-year-old Ukrainian

qualifier Elina Svitolina 6-3, 6-2 and goes on to face Sweden's Sofia Arvidsson.

Arvidsson reached the second round by seeing off 41-year-old Kimiko Date Krumm of Japan 6-4 6-2.

Asian hopes took a further battering when Chinese 32nd seed Peng Shuai tumbled out 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 to Russia's Elena Vesnina.

In men's play, French fifth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, a quarter-finalist in 2011, advanced to the second round by defeating Slovakian qualifier Karol Beck 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (7/2).

Tsonga will next face another Slovakian, 52nd-ranked Martin Klizan.

There were also wins for Czech sixth seed Tomas Berdych, who beat Belgium's David Goffin 7-5, 6-3, 6-3, and Spanish 11th seed Nicolas Almagro, who saw off Czech veteran Radek Stepanek 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4.

Canadian 15th seed Milos Ranoic survived a gruelling five-setter to beat Santiago Giraldo 6-3, 4-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, firing 30 aces in the process.



SANXENXO,(AFP) - Germany's John Degenkolb won the Tour of Spain's tenth stage here on Tuesday, while Spain's Joaquim Rodriguez held on to the overall leader's red jersey. Degenkolb of the Argos-Shimano team dashed to his fourth stage victory of this year's race in the mass sprint finish of the 190-kilometre (12-mile) ride from Pontareas to Sanxenxo in northwestern Spain. The 23-year-old completed the stage in four hours, 47 minutes and 24 seconds. He had already won the second, fifth and seventh stages of this year's Tour of Spain. Rodriguez of team Katusha held on to the overall race lead, with a 53 second advantage of his nearest rival, Britain's Chris Froome of Team Sky. Spain's Alberto Contador of Saxo-Bank is in third place in the overall standings, one minute behind the leaders.

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Paralympic flame.... continued from page 16

"We have hope that the power of the Paralympic Games and the incredible Paralympic athletes will inspire a generation of newly-disabled people to transform their lives through the power of sport."

The original Stoke Mandeville games were timed to coincide with the first post-war Olympics in London the same year and became so popular they were repeated annually.

The first international event was held in 1952, when a team of Dutch veterans came to compete.

Guttmann, who fled Nazi Germany with his family, managed to convince organizers of the 1960 Rome Olympics to allow 400 wheelchair athletes from 23 coun-

tries to compete in a 'parallel' event and the Paralympics were born.

"Nobody else wanted to do it," said his daughter. "They felt it was a lost cause at the time, because the patients died."

Eva said her father would have been proud of how disabled sport had developed, particularly with the London Olympics seeing its first double-amputee competitor in South Africa's Oscar Pistorius.

Pistorius -- dubbed the "Blade Runner" because he runs on carbon fibre prosthetic limbs -- made the semi-final of the men's 400m and the final of the 4x400m relay, and is set to defend his Paralympic T44 100m, 200m and 400m titles.

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Paralympics: Paralympic flame lit at 'spiritual home'



The Cauldron is lit in Stoke Mandeville

STOKE MANDEVILLE, United Kingdom (AFP) - The Paralympic flame was lit at the spiritual home of disabled sport yesterday, signalling the 24-hour countdown to the start of this year's Games.

Some 3,000 people, including former Paralympians and dignitaries such as London 2012 organising committee chief Sebastian Coe, watched as the flame took hold at 8.12 pm (1912GMT) at Stoke Mandeville Stadium in southern England.

It was at Stoke Mandeville

wig Guttman, organised the first recognised sports events for people with disabilities, 12 years before the inaugural Paralympics in Rome.

"It is simply not possible to stand here and not recognise the momentous debt of gratitude to him, his work, his drive and passion," Coe said of Guttman, who died in 1980.

"I really hope that if he was standing here today he would be very proud to be able to look on the eve of the Paralympic Games that it was that work, that drive and that pas-

sioning event in the world."

This year's Paralympic flame was created from four 'national flames' of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland that were kindled on Britain's highest peaks and brought to Stoke Mandeville in miner's lamps.

The flames, transferred into four torches, were then placed simultaneously in a cauldron, creating a single flame that will be taken 92 miles (148 kilometres) overnight from the world-famous spinal injuries centre to the British capital.

A total of 116 teams of five people will now carry the flame to the Olympic Stadium

in east London for today evening's opening ceremony.

Guttman's daughter, Eva Loeffler, said the Paralympics had developed beyond anyone's expectations from modest roots with just 16 wheelchair athletes -- all of them war veterans with spinal injuries -- in 1948.

When Eva volunteered as a ball girl during the rudimentary wheelchair sports tournament for World War II veterans in 1948, she had no idea the contest would grow into the Paralympic Games.

Sixty-four years on, Loeffler is honorary mayor of the Paralympic Village, welcom-

ing a record 4,200 athletes of 166 Nation to the world's second-biggest sports event in terms of participation after the Olympics.

"Everyone here could not have dreamed that lighting a spark in the hearts, minds and bodies of Paralympians would grow into the amazing spectacle we are about to witness," the 79-year-old told the crowd.

"It's so right and fitting that Stoke Mandeville, the birthplace of the Paralympics, has been chosen as the starting line for the Paralympic torch relay for London 2012..."

continues on page 15



Eva Loeffler, daughter of the founder Paralympic games Ludwig Guttman, stands by the logo of the Paralympic Games

Hospital in 1948 that a German-Jewish neurologist, Lud-

sion that created a games that are now the second-largest

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